

ask that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her years of devotion and public service.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETES ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of Sandhills Community College (SCC) on achieving GPAs of high remark.

SCC has a proud history of both academic and athletic excellence and is a regional leader on both fronts. I was proud to see so many SCC student athletes carry on this great tradition.

In particular, I would like to recognize the following members of these teams on their achievement of this honor. Student athletes, Ava Ray, Trinity Ahing of the Women's Golf team, Emma Brown, Lannah Huneycutt, Keke Lawrence, Alyssa Maragelis, Anna Ty Ivey, Jalasia Ray, Mackenzie Swett, Rachel Burley, Olivia Barlowe Britta Martin of the Beach and Court Volleyball teams, Alon Hanani, Isaiah Nelson, Zac Sledge, Sam Stoltz, Kendall Wooldridge, and LeNijel Robinson of the Basketball team, and Logan Hay, Noah Maness, Alex Martin, Liam Harris, Supinat Rvjiaran and Ben Read of the Men's Golf team.

Their great success in the classroom is proof that each of them truly embody what it means to be a student athlete. I think I speak for everyone in our community when I say they have made Pinehurst and the whole of Moore County proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the SCC Athletics Department for this great achievement and to wish them continued success both on the court and in the classroom.

HONORING CURTIS LACEY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and selfless leader, Mr. Curtis Lacey. Curtis has shown dedication to the citizens of Warren County.

Curtis Lacey, tree and brush foreman for the Warren County Road Department, is commended for his lifesaving actions on October 30, 2023. On that afternoon, Lacey approached the scene of a wreck that left Linda Blissett, 76, trapped in her vehicle. He acted quickly, administering lifesaving care until the authorities arrived.

The Warren County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation commending Lacey for his heroic efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Curtis Lacey for his passion

and dedication to the City of Vicksburg and Warren County.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT  
LYNETTE ZELEZNY

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to recognize President Lynette Zelezny on her retirement today as President of California State University, Bakersfield. Over the course of her 35-year career in the education field, President Zelezny has inspired students, professors, and administrators through her passion for improving the academic success of our next generation, especially within the California State University system.

President Zelezny's career with the California State University system started in 1974 with her enrollment in Humboldt State University, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1979 and her Master's Degree in Psychology in 1981. Following her completion of a Doctorate in Social Psychology at Claremont Graduate University and an MBA from the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno, President Zelezny stayed at Fresno State, serving in a variety of educational and leadership roles. Most notably, President Zelezny served as Chief Academic Officer, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno State. In 2018, President Zelezny made history when she became the first female President of California State University, Bakersfield.

Over the past five years, under President Zelezny's leadership, California State University, Bakersfield has successfully navigated new challenges and achieved several important milestones. She not only led the university through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic but did so with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of students and faculty. One of President Zelezny's top achievements has been developing CSUB's California Energy Research Center into a robust hub for energy research throughout the Central Valley. As Kern County gains and sustains ever more national importance as a hub for energy production, future generations in our region will look back on President Zelezny's initiative with great appreciation.

A true champion of Central Valley education, particularly in Bakersfield, President Zelezny's passion for the community has been a driving force behind her efforts. She recognized the unique challenges and opportunities presented in the region and strengthened the ties between the university and our community.

On behalf of the Central Valley of California, we would like to express our gratitude for President Zelezny's leadership to California State University, Bakersfield and her role in shaping the future careers of countless students. We would like to congratulate President Zelezny on a well-deserved retirement, a successful career in education, and for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR  
LUKE TORIAN

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and honor the Rev. Dr. Luke Torian on his 35-year career in ministry. Dr. Torian has dedicated his life to serving and ministering to others through his work in the church, in the community, and in Virginia's House of Delegates.

A strong believer in the power of education, Dr. Torian graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Winston-Salem State University, followed by a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and finally a Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Divinity at Howard University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Torian has served in many roles including youth minister, associate pastor, and chaplain. In 1995, he was installed as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, where he has led a vibrant congregation of more than 4,000 people. He has been a fixture of the community, providing his congregation with support, kindness, and fellowship. Dr. Torian has built a church community that ministers to its congregants through Sunday services, Bible studies, social activities, music and arts, scholarship opportunities, and more.

Dr. Torian's outstanding leadership has been recognized by many over the years. He was awarded the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award by Howard University, a reflection of his dedication to his work and his positive contributions to his community. As a trusted source of knowledge and service, his impact has extended past Prince William County—first with his appointment to the Virginia Board of Counseling by Virginia Governor Mark Warner, and later with his 2009 election to represent the 52nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

As a Delegate, Dr. Torian has served his constituents faithfully, advocating to improve education and criminal justice policies in the Commonwealth. In 2020, he was chosen to chair the Virginia House Appropriations Committee—a historic appointment that made him the first African American in Virginia's history to lead the Committee, and a role he will resume in 2024 as he continues his legislative service.

As we look back on his career in the church, Dr. Torian has been a tremendous leader in his community, providing exceptional service and ministry to those in Prince William County and beyond. I am certain that his next chapter will also be guided by his love for service, love for learning, and his faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Rev. Dr. Luke Torian, I wish him, his beloved wife Clarice and their daughter Constance, the very best as they prepare for the next step in his career.